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Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (currently amended) A method for managing a network element inventory
2   for a video and data network comprising:
3   self-discovering a physical network inventory of physical network elements using
4   network elements of the video and data network;
5   self-discovering a logical network inventory of logical network elements using
6   network elements of the video and data network;
7   providing a planned network inventory of the video and data network;
8   loading the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned
9   network inventory into the network element inventory, wherein the physical network elements
10   and logical network elements of the video and data network change over time, wherein the
11   physical network inventory and logical network inventory is continually self-discovered over the
12   time period to update the physical network inventory and logical network inventory in real-time;
13   synchronizing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and
14   planned network inventory in the network element inventory to determine any differences
15   between the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time updated logical
16   network inventory with the planned network inventory;
17   receiving a request for a view of the network element inventory; and
18   determining the view based on at least one of the synchronized physical network
19   inventory, the synchronized logical network inventory, and planned network inventory, wherein
20   the view is determined based on if any differences between physical network elements of the
21   real-time updated physical network inventory and logical network elements of the real-time
22   updated logical network inventory with physical or logical network elements of the planned
23   network inventory are determined.

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1   2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network

2   comprises a Very high bit rate Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) network.

1   3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network

2   comprises a Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL) network.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the planned network inventory

2   comprises planned virtual network inventory.

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the planned network inventory

2   comprises planned physical network inventory.

1   6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein synchronizing the

2   physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory

3   comprises comparing the planned network inventory with the self-discovered real-time updated

4   physical and real-time updated logical network inventory.

1   7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising

2   creating a repair ticket if the comparison of the planned network inventory with the self-

3   discovered real-time updated physical and real-time updated logical network inventory is not

4   substantially equal.

1   8.   (currently amended) A method for managing a network element inventory

2   between one or more operation systems for a video and data network comprising:

3   self-discovering a physical network inventory of physical network elements using

4   network elements of the video and data network;

5   self-discovering a logical network inventory of logical network elements using

6   network elements of the video and data network;

7   providing a planned network inventory of the video and data network;

8   loading the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned

9   network inventory into the network element inventory, wherein the physical network elements

10   and logical network elements of the video and data network change over time, wherein the

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11   physical network inventory and logical network inventory is continually self-discovered over the

12   time period to update the physical network inventory and logical network inventory in real-time;

13   synchronizing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and

14   planned network inventory in the network element inventory to determine any differences

15   between the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time updated logical

16   network inventory with the planned network inventory;

17   creating one or more views of the network element inventory using at least one of

18   the synchronized physical network inventory, the synchronized logical network inventory, and

19   the planned network inventory for the one or more operation systems, wherein the one or more

20   views are created based on if any differences between <u>physical network elements of</u> the real-time

21   updated physical network inventory and <u>logical network elements of</u> the real-time updated

22   logical network inventory with <u>physical or logical network elements of</u> the planned network

23   inventory are determined;

24   providing the one or more views to the one or more operation systems.

1   9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving an update

2   of self-discovered physical, self discovered logical, and planned inventory.

1   10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising re-synchronizing

2   the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory in the

3   network element inventory with the update of self-discovered physical, self discovered logical,

4   and planned inventory.

1   11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising creating one or

2   more views of the re-synchronized network element inventory for the one or more operation

3   systems.

1   12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising providing the one

2   or more views using the re-synchronized physical network inventory, logical network inventory,

3   and planned network inventory.

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1   13.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the operation systems

2   comprise sales, engineering, and marketing systems.

1   14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the video and data

2   network comprises a Very High bit rate Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) network.

1   15.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the video and data network

2   comprises an xDSL network.

1   16.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the planned network inventory

2   comprises planned virtual network inventory.

1   17.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the planned network inventory

2   comprises planned physical network inventory.

1   18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein synchronizing the

2   physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory

3   comprises comparing the planned network inventory with the self-discovered real-time updated

4   physical and real-time updated logical network inventory.

1   19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising

2   creating a repair ticket if the comparison of the planned network inventory with the self-

3   discovered real-time updated physical and real-time updated logical network inventory is not

4   substantially equal.

1   20.   (currently amended) A method for managing a network element inventory

2   for a video and data network comprising:

3   self-discovering a physical network inventory of physical <u>network</u> elements using

4   network elements of the video and data network;

5   self-discovering a logical network inventory of logical <u>network</u> elements using

6   network elements of the video and data network;

7   receiving a planned network inventory of the video and data network;

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8   storing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned

9   network inventory into the network element inventory, wherein the physical <u>network</u> elements

10   and logical <u>network</u> elements of the video and data network change over time, wherein the

11   physical network inventory and logical network inventory is continually self-discovered over the

12   time period to update the physical network inventory and logical network inventory in real-time;

13   and

14   comparing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and

15   planned network inventory in the network element inventory to determine differences between

16   the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time updated logical network

17   inventory with the planned network inventory; and

18   determining a view of the network element inventory based on at least one of the

19   physical network inventory, logical network inventory, planned network inventory, and the

20   comparison between <u>physical network elements of</u> the real-time updated physical network

21   inventory and <u>logical network elements of</u> the real-time updated logical network inventory with

22   <u>physical or logical network elements of</u> the planned network inventory.

1   21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the planned

2   network inventory comprises planned virtual network inventory.

1   22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the planned

2   network inventory comprises planned physical network inventory.

1   23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

2   receiving a request for a view of the network element inventory; and

3   providing the view using at least one of the physical network inventory, logical

4   network inventory, planned network inventory, and the comparison between the real-time

5   updated physical network inventory and the real-time updated logical network inventory with the

6   planned network inventory.

1   24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising if

2   there are differences between the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time

3   updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory, selecting at least one of

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4 the real-time updated physical network inventory, the real-time updated logical network

5 inventory, and the planned network inventory as a representation of the network element

6 inventory.

1   25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising if

2 there are differences between the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time

3 updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory, determining a

4 representation of the network element inventory from the real-time updated physical network

5 inventory, the real-time updated logical network inventory, and the planned network inventory.

1   26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising

2 receiving an update of at least one of the self-discovered physical, self discovered logical, and

3 planned inventory.

1   27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising

2 comparing an updated physical network inventory or updated logical network inventory with an

3 updated planned network inventory in the network element inventory to determine differences

4 between the updated physical network inventory and the logical network inventory with the

5 planned network inventory.

1   28.   (currently amended) An apparatus for managing a network element

2 inventory for a video and data network, the apparatus comprising:

3   a self-discovered physical network inventory of physical network elements using

4 network elements of the video and data network;

5   a self-discovered logical network inventory of logical network elements using

6 network elements of the video and data network;

7   a planned network inventory of the video and data network;

8   a database for storing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory,

9 and planned network inventory into the network element inventory, wherein the physical

10 network elements and logical network elements of the video and data network change over time,

11 wherein the physical network inventory and logical network inventory is continually self-

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12   discovered over the time period to update the physical network inventory and logical network

13   inventory in real-time;

14   logic configured to compare the physical network inventory, logical network

15   inventory, and planned network inventory in the network element inventory to determine

16   differences between the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time updated

17   logical network inventory with the planned network inventory; and

18   logic to determine a view of the network element inventory based on at least one

19   of the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, planned network inventory, and

20   the comparison between physical network elements of the real-time updated physical network

21   inventory and logical network elements of the real-time updated logical network inventory with

22   physical or logical network elements of the planned network inventory.

1   29.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

2   logic to receive a request for a view of the network element inventory; and

3   logic to provide the view using at least one of the real-time updated physical

4   network inventory, real-time updated logical network inventory, and planned network inventory.

1   30.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the planned

2   network inventory comprises planned virtual network inventory.

1   31.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the planned

2   network inventory comprises planned physical network inventory.

1   32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if differences

2   between the self-discovered real-time updated physical network inventory and the self-

3   discovered real-time updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory are

4   determined, determining the view comprising:

5   providing the view with the differences and at least one of the self-discovered

6   real-time updated physical network inventory, self-discovered real-time updated logical network

7   inventory, and the planned network inventory.

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1   33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if differences

2   between the self-discovered real-time updated physical network inventory and the self-

3   discovered real-time updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory are

4   determined, determining the view comprising:

5   selecting one of the self-discovered real-time updated physical network inventory,

6   self-discovered real-time updated logical network inventory, and the planned network inventory

7   for the view.

1   34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein if differences

2   between the self-discovered real-time updated physical network inventory and the self-

3   discovered real-time updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory are

4   determined, determining the view comprising:

5   providing the view with the differences and at least one of the self-discovered

6   real-time updated physical network inventory, self-discovered real-time updated logical network

7   inventory, and the planned network inventory.

        35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein if differences

between the self-discovered real-time updated physical network inventory and the self-

discovered real-time updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory are

determined, determining the view comprising:

        selecting one of the self-discovered real-time updated physical network inventory,

self-discovered 1 real-time updated logical network inventory, and the planned network inventory

for the view.